

# The Beginning of the End

Presentation developed for the Center for  
Slavic and East European Studies at The  
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# Mikhail Gorbachev

## 1985-1991



### The Great Reformer

- The Soviet Union was not growing economically, and he wanted to implement reforms to modernize the country



# Perestroika

- Definition: “Restructuring” The policy meant to restructure the economy so that it would grow.
- How?
  - Allowed private ownership of businesses
  - Abolished the Command Economy (where the State determined production levels). Now, industries could determine their own levels of production



# Glasnost

- Definition: “Openness”
- What kind of openness do you think this was?
- \*some\* freedom of speech, less censorship, and freedom of information
  - Government records made public so people could learn what happened to their family members during Stalin’s rule.
- Does this remind you of any other event we learned about?
  - Reporter: What’s the difference between Glasnost and the Prague Spring?
  - Gorbachev: 19 years



# Video

- <http://www.pbs.org/pov/myperestroika/video/the-beginning-of-perestroika/>

# How reforms affected society

- From the video, what can you tell about how society felt at this prior to the reforms? Think about the soldier talking about entry into the party?
- How did things change once reforms were implemented?
- What happens when you start to reform a society that was previously strictly controlled by the state?
- What do you think will happen to the Soviet Union?